# GREATER BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
## BYLAWS
## ADOPTED MAY 6, 1969

### Article 1. General

#### Section 1. Name

This organization is incorporated under the laws of the State of New Mexico and shall be known as the Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce, Inc., with principal office at Belen, Valencia County, New Mexico.

#### Section 2. Object

The Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of advancing the economic, industrial, professional, cultural, and civic conditions and standards for Belen and Eastern Valencia County.

#### Section 3. Limitation of Methods

The Chamber shall be non-profit, non-partisan, and non-sectarian and shall take no part in or lend its facilities, either directly or indirectly, to the nomination or election of any candidate for political office in city, county, state or nation. The Chamber shall have power to acquire and dispose of any property real or personal.

### Article II. Membership

#### Section 1. Classes of Membership

The Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce shall be composed of active members and honorary members, and such other classes of membership as may from time to time be created by the Board of Directors.

#### Section 2. Eligibility

Any person, firm, association, corporation, partnership, or estate having an interest in the above recited objectives shall be eligible. to apply for active membership.

#### Section 3. Application

Applications for active membership shall be in writing, on forms provided for that purpose, and signed by the applicant. The Membership Committee shall review all applicants and submit them to the Board of Directors with its recommendation. Election of any members shall be by affirmative vote of majority of the Board of Directors at any meeting thereof. Any applicant so elected shall become a member upon payment of the regularly scheduled dues as provided in Section 4 of Article II.

#### Section 4. Dues

Membership dues shall be at such rate or rates, schedules or formulas as may be set by the Board of Directors.

#### Section 5. Voting

Each active member shall be entitled to cast one vote.

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Article II. Membership (continued)

Section 6. Exercise of Privileges

Any firm, association, corporation, partnership or estate holding membership may nominate individuals whom the holder desires to exercise the privileges of participation covered by its subscription and shall have the right to change the participation nomination upon written notice. Any dues paying member having multiple participants is restricted to one vote.

Section 7. Honorary Membership

Distinction in public affairs shall confer eligibility to honorary membership. Honorary members shall have all the privileges except the right to vote, and shall be exempt from payment of dues. The Board of Directors shall confer or revoke Honorary Membership by a majority vote.

Section 8. Termination

(a) Any member may resign upon written request to the Board of Directors.

(b) Any member may be expelled by the Board of Directors by a majority vote for non-payment of dues after ninety days from the due date.

(c) Any member may be expelled by a majority of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof for conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the aims or repute of the Chamber after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the member complained against.

Article III. Meetings

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Chamber shall be the calendar year and shall close on December 31st of each year.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the corporation shall be in January on a date fixed by the Board of Directors and notice thereof mailed to each member at least seven (7) days before said meeting.

Section 3. Additional Meetings

(a) General membership meetings will be held monthly as scheduled by the Board of Directors. Notice and purpose of general meeting shall be mailed to each member at least seven (7) days prior to such meetings.

(b) General membership meetings may be called by the President at any time, or upon petition in writing of any thirty (30) members in good standing. Notice of and purpose of special meetings shall be mailed to each member at least seven (7) days prior to such meetings.

(c) Scheduled monthly Board meetings shall be set by the Board of Directors, may be called by the President, or by him upon application of three (3) members of the Board. Notice (including the purpose of the meeting) shall be given to each Director at least one (1) day prior to said meeting.

Article III. (continued)

Section 4. Quorums

(a) At any duly called general meeting of the Chamber twenty (20) per cent (%) of the general membership shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Eight (8) Directors present shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors.

Article IV. Board of Directors

Section 1. Management

The affairs and property of the Chamber shall be managed by the Board of Directors (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Board). The Board shall elect the officers of the Chamber, adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of the business of the Chamber, and shall have the authority to expend the funds of the Chamber for Chamber purposes.

Section 2. Number and Terms

(a) The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen (15) elected members, the immediate Past President and two appointive members. The elected members shall be elected as hereinafter provided, and the two (2) appointive members may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board as soon as desired after the election of the President.

(b) Of the fifteen (15) elected members, five (5) shall be elected annually to serve for three (3) years, or until their successors are elected and have qualified, such terms to commence on the first day of January in each year, and may not succeed themselves but be eligible for another three-year elective term only after the passage of one or more years from the expiration of their terms.

(c) The term of the appointive members shall be from the date of appointment and approved by the Board until December 31, of the same year. An appointive term shall not disqualify a member from election to a succeeding three (3) year term.

(d) In addition to the elected and appointive members as herein provided, any person elected as President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President shall, if he is not already a member of the Board of Directors, become a member of the Board of Directors and serve during his term of office.

(e) Only one (1) member of any firm, corporation, or association, active therein as his principal business or occupation, shall be eligible to serve as a director at any one time.

Section 3. Nominations

(a) The Directors shall be nominated for election by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President composed of the retiring elected Board members plus an equal number of regular members.

(b) The Committee shall nominate for the Board of Directors at least as many candidates as are to be elected, all of whom shall have expressed their willingness to serve. At the regularly scheduled Board Meeting

Article III. (continued)

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Section 3. Nominations (continued)

in September, they shall submit their list of nominations to the Board of Directors for their approval, additions or deletions. Upon final approval of the Board the list of candidates shall consist of at least the number that are to be elected. The committee and the Board of Directors are hereby charged with the responsibility of nominating candidates, whenever possible, that will give representation of all segments in the Greater Belen area on the Board of Directors. They shall post the list of nominees in the Chamber office at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual election and mail a copy of the report listing the nominees and their business affiliation to each member of the Chamber.

(c) Any fifteen (15) members of the Chamber in good standing may post in the office of the Chamber the names of additional candidates, also members in good standing, proposed by them over their signatures not less than twenty (20) days prior to the date of the annual election.

(d) Ballots shall be prepared and mailed to membership not later than ten (10) days prior to the election. The ballots shall contain:

(1) the nominations of the Board of Directors;

(2) nominations by membership petition; and

(3) provisions for write-in candidates.

Section 4. Election of Directors

(a) Directors shall be elected by the entire voting membership, each member of the Chamber in good standing being entitled to one vote for each position on the Board of Directors which is subject to that election. There shall be no cumulative voting.

(b) Directors shall have been elected by December 1st of the election year. No votes received after 5:00 p.m. of the date of election shall be counted. No elected Director shall serve more than one consecutive term of (3) years.

Section 5. Judges

(a) The President shall appoint three (3) members of the Board of Directors to act as judges on the date of election and release the results by twelve (12) o'clock noon of the following day. Nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared Directors. In the event of a tie vote, the election shall be determined by lot under the direction of the judges of election.

Section 6. Vacancies

(a) The office of any elected director who shall be absent from three (3) regular consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors may be deemed vacant, at the discretion of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those voting at any meeting thereof. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to advise the Board of any such three (3) consecutive absences and to notify the member of the action taken by the Board.

Article IV. Board of Directors (continued)

Section 6. Vacancies (continued)

(b) Vacancies on the Board of Directors or among the officers shall be filled by the Board of Directors by a majority vote at the succeeding meeting of the Board.

Article V. Election and Appointment of Officers

Section 1. Election and Appointment of Officers

(a) The officers of this association shall be elected by the Board of Directors for the ensuing year, during the month of December, upon the determination of the new membership of the Board of Directors. The following officers shall be so elected: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President. These officers shall hold office for the period of one (1)calendar year. The Board of Directors shall designate a Treasurer.

Section 2. Term of Office

(a) All officers shall be eligible to serve as an officer on the Board of Directors for as many years as they are eligible to serve on the Board with the exception of the office of the President, who shall be ineligible to serve two consecutive terms.

Section 3. President

(a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform all duties incident to his office and advise such action as might be deemed by him likely to increase the usefulness of the Chamber. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Chamber.

(b) In the absence or inability of the President to act, the First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. If both are absent or incapacitated, the Second Vice President shall serve.

Section 4. Vice Presidents

(a) The duties of the Vice Presidents shall be such as their assignments would indicate and such as required by the Board of Directors. They will also have under their immediate jurisdiction all committees pertaining to their general duties.

Section 5. Treasurer

(a) The Treasurer designated by the Board shall be the custodian of the finances of the organization.

Article VI. Manager and/or Secretary

Section 1. Employees

(a) The Board of Directors shall hire such employees as the Board deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the Chamber. It shall be the duty

Article VI. Manager and/or Secretary (continued)

Section 1. Employees (continued)

of the Board to determine whether the Chamber needs a manager or whether the work of the Chamber can be properly carried on by the Board and a secretary or other such employees. The Board shall determine the salary and other terms and conditions of employment of any employees of the Chamber. The Board shall provide suitable quarters and equipment to carry on the work of the Chamber.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors shall designate a manager and/or secretary. Any manager and/or secretary hired by the Board shall be considered employees and not officers of the Chamber.

Section 3.

The manager, if any, or a secretary shall conduct the official correspondence and keep all records and preserve all books, documents and communications. He shall keep books of accounts and maintain an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors and shall perform such other duties incident to his office as may be directed by the Board of Directors. At the expiration of his employment the Manager or any secretary shall deliver to the Board of Directors all books, papers, accounts and property of the organization that have been controlled by such employee.

Article VII. Committees and Divisions

Section 1. Committees

(a) All standing committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors and shall have such powers as may be given them by the Board of Directors. Special Committees may be appointed by the President and shall have such powers as may be given them by the President, provided however that no committees shall incur any financial obligation upon the Chamber, except when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.

(b) The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. A Vice President may be appointed an ex-officio member of any committee.

(c) All Committees will be subject to an governed by these bylaws.

Section 2. Limitation of Powers

(a) No action by any member, committee, employee, director or officer shall be binding upon or constitute an expression of the policy of the Chamber until such action shall have been approved or ratified by the Board of Directors.

Article VIII. Finance

Section 1. Funds

All money paid to the Chamber shall be placed in a general operating fund or into specific designated accounts or funds as designated by the

Article VIII. Finance (continued)

Section 1. Funds (continued)

Board of Directors.

Section 2. Disbursements

No obligation or expense shall be incurred and no money shall be appropriated or paid in excess of the annual budget adopted by the Board of Directors unless such excess has had prior approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Chamber shall be the calendar year and shall close on December 31st of each year.

Section 4. Budget

The Budget Committee appointed by the President shall compile a budget of estimated income and expenses for the current year and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval at the February meeting.

Section 5. Annual Audit

The accounts of the Chamber shall be audited annually as of the close of business on December 31st by a Audit Committee or Licensed Public Accountant selected by the President and approved by the Board. The auditor's report shall be made available to members for examination.

Section 6. Bond

The Secretary, Treasurer and other staff employees may be bonded in such amount and in such manner as the Board of Directors shall deem necessary.

Article IX. Parliamentary Procedure

The proceedings of the Chamber meetings shall be governed by and conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Article X. Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority of the members voting at any annual, general, or special meeting of the organization or by ballot provided by the Chamber on instruction of the Board of Directors. Notice of any proposed changes must be mailed to the membership in the call of the meeting, or with the ballot at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be posted in the Chamber office at least seven (7) days before such meeting or vote.

Belen Chamber of Commerce
July 1st, 1960 to June 22nd, 1961

The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the betterment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry, a leader in thinking and a source of service. Its sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.

Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the Fair Parade-- gave prizes for the best floats -- furnished lunch for all visiting band students. Gave a trophy to the band contributing the best performance in the parade and also to the best visiting mounted group. Handled the entrance gates at the Fair grounds.

Sponsored the Christmas parties for the children in the elementary grades of the Belen Consolidated Schools.

Sponsored Christmas street lighting program.

Sponsored the Christmas decoration program in the city park.

Continued to act as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and promoters so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that a check would be made on their credentials with the Better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license would be issued. This co-operation between the Town of Belen and the Chamber has proved very successful.

Kept a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking such information.

Assisted many new families in finding housing.

Met with representatives of the New Mexico Department of Development to discuss the industrial potential of this area. Assisted in surveys headed by firms seeking new locations.

Served in co-operation with the schools. Co-sponsored a Business Education Day in the schools. Permitted Distributive Education Class to use building for breakfasts where D. E. Students and business men are guests.

Has extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen.

Secured later editions of the Albuquerque Journal for the Belen and Los Lunas area.

Have been working with the Railway Express Agency trying to secure free pick-up and delivery service for Belen.

Welcomed new people to the community and distributed gift certificates from the merchants.

Met with the State Highway Commission to discuss highway and overpass needs.

Co-operated with the Albuquerque Land Corporation and have answered about 7 thousand inquiries about Belen and the area.

Granted the use of the Chamber building, free of charge to the following organizations: Girl Scouts, Valencia County Fair Association, Sheriff's Posse, Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Clubs, Belen Art League, and as a voting place in all elections. The welfare department is using the large storage room on the east for the distribution of surplus food.

Has sent resolutions and letters to Congressional members and our State Legislature on matters affecting our State and Town.

# 1963-1964 Chamber of Commerce

The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the betterment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry, a leader in thinking and a source of service. Its sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.

The Chamber has actively sought new developments and industry for Belen. It furnishes detailed information to firms interested in the west as a new location. Many inquiries are forwarded to us by the Economic Development . Presently working with ABCD in Albu.

New Mexico Dept of
met with State Highway Commission to discuss highway needs in this area. Reaffirmed Chambers stand on Interstate bypassing Belen on the west with 2 interchanges. Works constantly with the New Mexico State Tourist Bureau. Attended Gov. Campbell's Conference on Tourism for New Mexico.
Chamber handles the Welcome program for new doners to Belen in which about 18 merchants are participating with gift certificates.

Extends welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen . Solicitied trophies for Jr. Rodeo Association rodeo in Belen. Large envelopes for District Extension Clubs Convention in Los Lunas. welcome posters for N. M. Mounted Patrol Convention.

Cooperating with Town and Highway Commission in planning the widening and improving of south Main Street.

Worked in co-operation with our schools - sponsored reception for teachers, parents and business people. Sponsored appreciation dinner for football team who gave an excellent proformance this past year.

Has acted as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and photographers so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that ~~of~~ a check would be made on their credentials with the better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license would be issued. This co-operation between the city and the Chamber has proven very successful.

Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the fair parade - gave prizes for best floats- fed all visiting band members - gave trophy for best visiting band. and mounted groups.

Sponsored Children's Christmas parties in all elementary schools.

Sponsored Christmas Street lighting program and the decorating of the City Park at Christmas season.

Answered thousands of inquiries about Belen and the Rio Grande Estates. The Horizon land Corporation pays Mrs Emond to assist with this job.

Assisted many new families in finding housing in Belen.

Co-operated with Rio Grande Estates in promoting fireworks display last July 4th.

Sponsored appreciation dinner for Highway Commissioners.

Established industrial fund to assist in bringing industry to Belen. -- Cattle guards on road to Marble quarry and cost of rod men in surveying road west of Rio Puerco. Mr Huffman donated his services which would have amounted to an considerable amount if he had charged for his work.

Co-operating with N.M. Educational Association in finding location for home for retired teachers. Has furnished considerable information on the Belen area.

sponsored political action courses in practical politics. This was a non-partisan course given for the benefit of Chamber members and made available by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. 18 Chamber members took the course.

[illegible] survey of Chamber members and other business firms to determine attitude toward local sales tax. Took no definite stand on the question

Welcomed new business firms to Salem and extended a six months courtesy membership to those who are just starting in business.

Our Chamber of Commerce can rightfully be proud of its accomplishments this past year for much has been done toward the promotion, progress and growth of our town. An organization is only as strong as its membership and the active support, moral and financial, of every member is requisite, if we are to carry out the activities planned for the next year. Thanks sincerely for your support, past, present and future.

BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1958-1959

1. The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the betterment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry, a leader in thinking and a source of service. Its sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.

2. Your Chamber is now actively seeking new developments and industry for Belen. The New Industry Committee is now working on an economic survey that will be put in brochure form in order that detailed information may be given to firms interested in new locations in the west.

3. Your Chamber has met several times with representatives of the Economic Development Commission, New Mexico State University, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Dept. of Commerce to discuss the industrial and agricultural potential of this area. The result of meetings has been a decided interest in the possibility of a chili processing plant in Belen. Surveys are being made by the County Agent and the Director of the Rural Development Committee to determine the amount of acreage that would be planted in chili if a suitable market can be obtained. Marketing experts from N. M. State University will help to contact firms interested in establishing a processing plant when the crop survey is completed.

4. Representatives of the Chamber attended an Industrial Conference in Gallup as guests of the Navajo Tribe and the Santa Fe Railroad. The purpose of this meeting was to acquaint each community with the industrial programs of other communities and agencies.

5. The Chamber Highway Committee has met with State Highway officials to discuss the highway needs in this area.

6. The Chamber works constantly with the New Mexico State Tourist Bureau.

7. It has extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen. Coffee and donuts have been served to guests of these conventions.

8. It has worked in co-operation with our schools. The Distributive Education Class has used the large room in the Chamber building as a class room and has used the kitchen in preparing breakfasts for B.H.S. students and business men. The Distributive Education class has carried a membership in the Chamber with
9. two students attending each luncheon meeting.

9. The Chamber has continued to act as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and photographers so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that a check would be made on their credentials with the Better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license would be issued. This co-operation between the City and the Chamber has proved very successful.

10. Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the Fair parade--gave prizes for the best floats-- furnished refreshments to all

BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1955-1956

1. The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the betterment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry, a leader in thinking and a source of service. Its sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.

2. Your Chamber is now actively seeking new developments and industry for Belen. It has furnished detailed information to several firms that have been interested in Belen as a possible new location.

3. Your Chamber has worked in close co-operation with the New Mexico Economic Development Commission in making surveys of the industrial possibilities in our area.

4. Your Chamber has met several times in Santa Fe with the State Highway Commission to discuss the need of highway improvement in this area.

5. It has worked in co-operation with the State Tourist Bureau by conducting a 24-hour out-of-state tourist car count in Belen and securing 10,000 Welcome Tourist brochures which contain a full page of information on Belen. These have been placed in all motels, hotels, cafes and service stations.

6. Your Chamber has set up a Welcome program for new comers in Belen with 21 merchants participating with gift certificates.

7. It has extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen.

8. It has worked in co-operation with City Officials in making surveys and planning improvements for our community.

9. It has worked in co-operation with our schools. It has provided funds for expenses of our Highschool Band on trips when the school budget could not provide the needed money. It furnished materials which were used by the Vocational Department in making toys for the Toys for Tots Christmas program.

10. It sponsored the parade for the Valencia County Fair and donated prizes for the best floats. It furnished a trophy for the visiting High School Band making the greatest contribution to the parade. It assisted the Fair Association by furnishing men to take care of the entrance gates.

11. It secured 18 new firm memberships and 7 new individual memberships during the past year - making a total of 131 members in the Belen Chamber of Commerce. These will be carried as continuing memberships unless cancelled by the member.

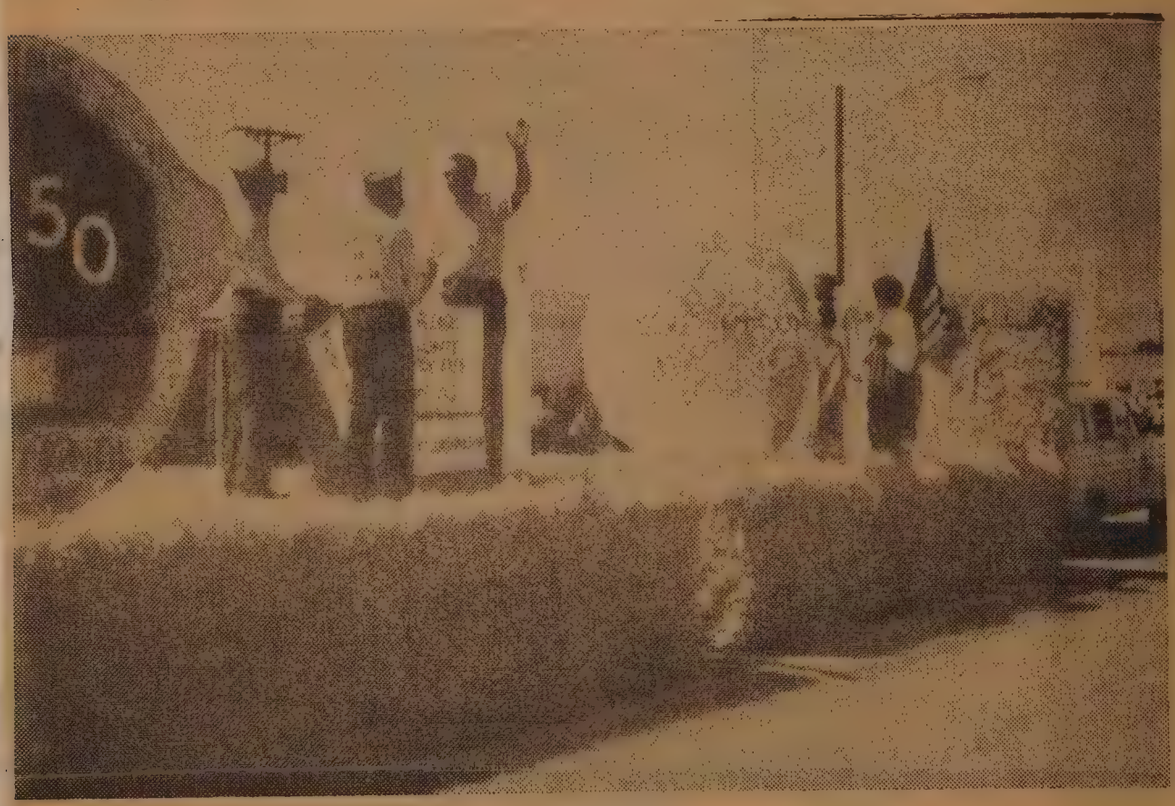
12. Your Chamber sponsored the Community Hallowe'en and Christmas parties for our young people.

13. Answered daily mail inquiries from people wanting information about Belen.

14. Took steps to protect its members against loss of time and money in a campaign against solicitors of donations, subscriptions and advertisements.

15. Has kept a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking information.

16. Granted the use of the Chamber building, free of charge, to the Girl Scouts, A.A.U.W., Valencia County Fair Association, D.A.V.'s, Civil Air Patrol, Beta Sigma Phi, Sheriff's Posse, G.P.A., Extension Clubs and 4-H Clubs.




YOUR LEFT, YOUR LEFT: Battery B of the Third Automatic Weapons Battalion, head quartered in Belen (top picture) march down the street in the Valencia County Fair Parade last Saturday. The group will receive the Eisenhower Award Sunday after being chosen as the best National Guard Unit in New Meixco.

THE LOS LUNAS LIONS CLUB, bottom picture was one of the 50 entries that took part in the Valencia County Fair Parade, Saturday, Sept. 10 in downtown Belen.

# THE BELEN CIVIC CLUB

*"Heart of the Middle Rio Grande Valley"*

BELEN, NEW MEXICO

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF

## THE BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### ARTICLE 1

Section 1. The name of this Organization is: THE BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Section 2. It has the power to enact rules and regulations for the government of this organization.

### ARTICLE 2

Section 1. The objects for which this Organization is formed are to promote the Commercial, Industrial, and Agricultural developments of the town of Belen and contributary territory and the general welfare of the Community.

### ARTICLE 3

Section 1. The management and direction of the affairs of this Organization shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors consisting of the President and four members. The president shall be the chairman of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The officers shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as shall be necessary to conduct the business of the organization.

Section 3. The President shall preside at all meetings, sign all records, vouchers and drafts made on the treasurer and preform the duties usually incident to the office of the President.

Section 4. The Vice President shall in case of the absence or inability of the President perform the duties of the President. In the case of absence of both the President and Vice President a chairman Protem may be chosen at any regular meeting of the Organization.

# THE BELEN CIVIC CLUB

*"Heart of the Middle Rio Grande Valley"*

BELEN, NEW MEXICO

Article 3 continued --

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of the Organization and keep in his possession all the records,co tracts, etc; to conduct the correspondence , collect the dues and other moneys for the Organization, turn the same over to the treasurer taking a receipt there for issue and sign all vouchers and drafts, and perform such other duties usually encomberant upon him.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and safely keep all money belonging to the Organization in a local bank, in the name of the Organization, and disburse the same only on drafts or vouchers drawn upon him by the secretary and signed by the President.

ARTICLE 4

Section 1. The President may appoint such committees as is necessary to properly conduct the business of the Organization.

ARTICLE 5

Section 1. The regular meetings of this Organization shall be on the second Friday of each month, and special meetings may be called by the President.

ARTICLE 6

Section 1. Election: The annual election of officers, and Board of Directors shall be on the regular meeting night in June of each year. Officers shall take office immediately on election.

ARTICLE 7

Section 1. Vacancies: Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment to be made by the Board of Directors and approved by majority vote of those present at the next regular meeting following such appointment.

ARTICLE 8

Section 1. Dues: The dues shall be $5.00 Annually in advance or $3.00 semi-annually in advance.

ARTICLE 9

Amendments. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by giving notice in writing presented at a regular meeting and then shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE YEAR
ending June 30th, 1954

1. Sponsored the building of the recreational area near the river.

2. Cooperated with the County Agent in entertaining 200 Texas farmers and 200 Iowa farmers on a tour of the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

3. Met with the Traffic and Safety Department of the State Highway to discuss traffic conditions at the intersection of Main, Becker and Dalies streets. The highway department showed that the volume of traffic was not large enough to warrant a traffic light at this point.

4. Contacted City about removal of dead trees in the park.

5. Cooperated with Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the fair. The Chamber sponsored the parade and took charge of the entrance gates to the Fair grounds.

6. Contacted the State Highway Department about condition of Highway 6 through Belen and east to the river. This has resulted in the excellent road just completed to the river.

7. Prepared a file of information on Belen for the Frost Oil Co who had announced plans for building a refinery in central New Mexico.

8. Contacted the State Highway Commission about widening the overpass and the highway between Belen and Los Lunas. This has been delayed because of right-of-way requirements but plans are shaping up so that work will possibly start by late summer.

9. Invited several High School bands to participate in our Valencia County Fair Parade. Mountainair, Socorro, Los Lunas and Belen accepted. The visiting band students were guests of the Chamber for lunch.

10. The Chamber launched a program to protect business firms and citizens of Belen against loss of time and money in a campaign against solicitors of donations subscriptions and advertisements.

11. Your Chamber is still working towards securing a right-of-way for a road to the Manzano Mountains so that the people living in the Belen and Los Lunas area may have access to mountain recreational areas.

12. Cooperated with the High School in setting up classes in selling and merchandising.

13. Sponsored the Annual Hallowe'en and Christmas parties for the children of Belen.

14. Solicited money for the Christmas lighting program. Made it possible for the citizens of Belen to buy strings of Christmas lights at a very reduced price.

15. Wrote letters to different divisions of government asking for additional appropiations for our public library.

16. Applied for a library of information for small businesses from the Department of Commerce. Have just recently been assured that we would get this.

17. Called a meeting of representatives of all civic and fraternal clubs, the city council and school officials to discuss the 1-cent cigarrette tax as a means of raising funds for a new swimming pool. The tax was passed and was being collected. The new 1-cent state tax that was passed soon after that annulled the local tax but the tax is being collected under the state law and the swimming pool should be completed before the end of the summer.

18. Asked the Postal Transportation department to investigate the delay in mail service in and out of Belen. This resulted in additional services.

19. Sponsored the Aqualante Fund Drive to raise money to support the Colorado River Storage Project. $450.00 was raised with 374 members.

20. Staged a Minstrel show to raise money for a building fund. This money will be kept in a separate fund and will be used only towards moving the present building to a new location near Main street or to secure different office building.

21. Secured eight cement tables from the State Highway Department for the picnic area.

22. Invited the Central Teachers Association and also Valencia County Bus Drivers Association to hold their next years meetings in Belen.

23. So as to better understand the increasing trend to shop away from home, your Chamber sponsored a survey for the Belen merchants. 408 people were interviewed by students of the High School Distributive Education class.

24. Made it possible for the following organizations to hold meetings in the Chamber building without cost to them:

| | |
|---|---|
| Girl Scouts | Red Cross |
| Fair Board | Pilot's Club |
| Game Protective Association | Boy Scouts |
| Sheriff's Posse | Disabled American Beterans |
| Beta Sigma Phi | State Sanitation Classes |
| 4-H Clubs | Extension Clubs |
| Women's Bowling League | W.O. W. Boys |

Most of these groups hold daily, weekly or bi-weekly meetings. Private parties ar e charged $5 for the use of the building.

25. Have kept a file of National Publications for the use of anyone seeking information of this kind.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1954-1955

Herbert Ellermeyer, President — Luis Torres, Vice-President
Martha Atkinson, Secretary — J. C. Sanchez, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

| | |
|---|---|
| Herbert Ellermeyer | Carter Waid |
| Luis Torres | Marvin Trembly |
| Henry Salazar | Roy Culver |
| Bonnie Sanchez | Gil Sanchez |
| Austin Lovett | Russell Ashbrook |
| Emmitt Franklin | M. T. Boucher |

Sponsors Valencia County Fair Parade; giving prizes for the best floats and a trophy to the best visiting band. Provides lunch for all visiting band students. Provides attendants for gates at the Fair grounds.

Urged that garbage disposal and fly spraying programs be set up by the City. Helped to organize support and interest in the 1-cent cigarette tax before there was a state tax to provide funds for a swimming pool and other youth recreational projects. Takes polls for the city to determine the attitude of the people on certain problems.

Sponsored recreational area near the river and secured eight picnic tables from the State Highway Department. Sponsored small park in front of the bank.

Works constantly in seeking new developments and industry for Belen. Furnishes detailed information to many firms interested in this area as a possible new location. Works in co-operation with the New Mexico Department of Development in making surveys of the industrial possibilities in this area.

Continues to act as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many magazine crews, peddlers and advertising solicitors have changed their minds about working in Belen when they are notified that a check will be made through the Better Business Bureau before a city license will be issued to them. This co-operation between the City and the Chamber has proved very successful.

Extends welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen.

Serves as a courtesy agent in helping new people find housing in Belen.

Answers about two thousand written inquiries a year about the valley and Belen area.

Keeps a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking information of such nature.

Makes it possible for civic groups and youth organizations to hold meetings in the Chamber building without cost to them.

Asked Postal Transportation Department to investigate the delay in mail service in and out of Belen. This resulted in additional services.

Meets with the Grants Chamber of Commerce on problems of mutual interest in the county.

Sends resolutions and letters to congressional members on matters affecting our state and area.

Serves as a clearing house for criticisms and suggestions regarding conditions in Belen.

Furnishes letters of introduction to firms and individuals in other cities.

THESE ARE A FEW OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SERVICES OF THE CHAMBER WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE COMBINED EFFORTS AND TALENTS OF OUR MEMBERS.

visiting band members. Gave a trophy to the band contributing the best performance in the parade. Handled the entrance gates to the Fair grounds.

11. Sponsored the Christmas parties for the children in the Belen area.

12. Sponsored the Christmas street lighting program.

13. Answered hundreds of daily mail inquiries from people wanting information on Belen.

14. Kept a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking information.

15. Assisted many new families in finding housing in Belen.

16. Granted the use of the Chamber building, free of charge to the following organizations: Girl Scouts, Valencia County Fair Association, D.A.V.'s, Sheriff's Posse, G.P.A., Extension Clubs, 4H Clubs and Belen Art Class. The building has been used as a Class room for the D.E. Class and as a voting place in all elections. The Welfare Department is using the large storage room on the east for the distribution of surplus food.

17. Met with the Grants Chamber of Commerce on problems of mutual interest in the County.

18. Has sent resolutions and letters to Congressional members on matters affecting our State and area.

19. Extended courtesies to Mrs Virginia Sharp who has been selected to represent New Mexico in the national contest for Mrs America.

20.

BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Brief report for first quarter of fiscal year.

OFFICERS: Luis Torres, President; Dr. James Calderone, Vice-President; Mrs Katie Johnson, Treasurer; Mrs Martha Atkinson, Secretary.

DIRECTORS: Luis Torres, Dr. James Calderone, Elmer Atwood, Carter Waid, Herman Gabaldon, Austin Lovett, J. C. Sanchez, Raoul Cordova, Lee Auge, Boni Tabet, Herb Ellermeyer and Marvin Trembly.

ACTIVITIES:

Helped plan overpass dedication.

Made survey to determine work projects for the year-- found extreme complacency among members-- 125 cards mailed- 11 returned.

Co-operated with Valencia County Fair Association. Sponsored parade- awarded trophies for best band, floats and mounted groups. Gave special trophy to Los Lunas Training School band- fed 175 visiting band students and boys from Boys Ranch before the parade.

Purchased used duplicating machine for Chamber office-- Gave old one to Jr. Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsored reception for all teachers in the Belen Consolidated Schools so that parents and business men could meet them.

Answered hundreds of mail and personal inquiries about the Belen area as a result of the nation wide advertising program by the Alameda Land Corporation. Mrs Emond is assisting with the mail and extra work caused by this publicity. The Alameda Land Corporation pays the extra office expense.

Assisted many new people in securing housing in the Belen area. There is a drastic need for three bedroom rent houses.

Sent gift certificates from the merchants to all new families in the community. The biggest problem is securing the names of these new people. If you know of a new family moving to our community, please call the Chamber office.

The President and Secretary attended the New Mexico Chamber Executives meeting in Farmington where mutual problems of the different Chambers were discussed.

Mrs Katie Johnson, Julia Carnahan, Mabel Emond and Martha Atkinson were recent guests of the Albuquerque Chamber's Women's Committee where representatives of the Albuquerque, Taos and Santa Fe women's groups told of their activities in cleaning up their towns and helping their Chambers in varied projects.

COMMITTEE WORK PLANS AND REPORTS:

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT: Dr. James Calderone, Chairman. Committee has met several times to determine needs of Belen. Plan to make surveys of citizens on needs, priority of projects and methods of paying for improvements.

RETAIL MERCHANTS COMMITTEE: Marvin Trembly, Chairman. Business firms on Main Street, Becker and Dalies Avenues have decided to purchase new gold colored street decorations for Christmas. Business firms in the Tabet Shopping Center will use some other type of decorations because of the lack of poles for hanging light stringers. Tentative plans are for using luminarios. The old Christmas light stringers have been turned to the Jr. Chamber of Commerce to be sold on a percentage.

RETAIL MERCHANTS COMMITTEE:
Plans for Christmas retail promotion - the actual purpose of the committee, will be started now that the Christmas street lighting program is under way.

NEW INDUSTRY COMMITTEE: H. O. Ellermeyer, Chairman. Several meetings have been held in conjunction with other interested groups to discuss the proposed pickle and food processing plant in or around Belen. After learning the Bureau of Indian Affairs was seeking this project for the Isleta Reservation, this project was dropped. It was felt that the Indian Bureau could more easily secure the project and it would still provide a market for agriculture products in the valley.

The committee has decided to concentrate on smaller industries and projects for which we have the facilities and a real local need. It was pointed out that it was a waste of time, effort and money if the new industry being considered could not stand on its own feet financially at least to the point where it would not be in the "risk promotion" category. Also that location in the Belen would prove advantageous to the success of the plant and experienced and competent management was available.

Attracting new people to Belen will in essence accomplish many of the results that attracting a New Industry would. From inquiries received by the Chamber, apparently better rental apartments and housing units are one of the greatest needs. Two and three bedroom rentals are very scarce.

A group has decided to form a corporation to build a "pilot" apartment unit to prove the need for better rental units.

Another need in the community is a Nursing Home. This is being investigated.

CITY PARK CHRISTMAS LIGHTING COMMITTEE: Mrs Marion Herlihy, Chairman. Local organizations participating in the program in the past have indicated that they will enlarge or improve their displays for this year. The committee wants to purchase some of the old street decorations for use in the park if money can be raised to do so. Ten stringers of lights would add considerably to the beauty of the displays. ( All of the old Christmas decorations have been used as trade in on the new gold colored ones and if we want to keep them we have to pay the company $250.)

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Raul Cordova, Chairman. Pledges for the year are about $200 short of the amount needed for minimum expenses. The Chamber is in need of up-to-date printed information that can be used to answer inquiries. The Chamber signs both north and south of town need to be repainted and relocated. No money has been budgeted for publicity of any kind. Apparently new members must be secured or the dues base for membership revised.

OTHER COMMITTEES will report on the following dates:
Education, Nov 13; Agriculture, Nov 20; New Business Welcoming Committee, Nov 27; Flood Control, Dec 4; Parks and Recreation, Dec 11; Publicity and Advertising, Dec 18 Valencia County Fair, Jan 8.

The Board of Directors and members meet each Tuesday noon at Gil's Dining Room for a business meeting. You are cordially invited to attend all of these meetings.

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BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1956-57

WITHOUT THE ORGANIZED HELP OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS COULD YOU HAVE DONE BY YOURSELF?

1. The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the betterment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry, a leader in thinking and source of service. Its sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.
2. Your Chamber is now actively seeking new developments and industry for Belen. It furnishes detailed information to firms interested in the west as a new location. About three inquiries a week are forwarded to us by the Economic Development Commission.

3. Surveys have been made of the industrial possibilities in our area for the Economic Development Commission.

4. Your Chamber has met in Santa Fe with the State Highway Commission to discuss the highway improvement needs in this area.

5. It has worked in co-operation with the State Tourist Bureau by placing a Welcome Tourist brochure, which contains a full page of information on Belen, in all motels, hotels, cafes and service stations.

6. Your Chamber has set up a Welcome program for new comers to Belen with thirty merchants participating with gift certificates.

7. It has extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen. Coffee and donuts are served to all guests attending these conventions.

8. It has worked in co-operation with City officials in making surveys and planning improvements for our community.

9. It has worked in co-operation with our schools. It sponsored a banquet honoring our football team and coaches. It purchased a trophy for the Basketball Tournament. Helped to sponsor a Christmas Music program with the Music Departments.

1
10. Continued to act as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and photographers so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that a check would be made on their credentials with the Better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license would be issued. This co-operation between the City and the Chamber has proved very successful.

11. Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the Fair Parade-- gave prizes for the best floats--fed all visiting band members following the parade-- gave trophy to the band contributing the best performance in the parade.

12. Sponsored the Hallowe'en and Christmas parties for the children in the Belen area.

13. Sponsored the Christmas street lighting program and the Christmas promotion program.

14. Answered daily mail inquiries from people wanting information about Belen.

15. Kept a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking information.

16. Assisted many new families in finding housing in Belen.

17. Worked with the County Recreation Committee in building fireplaces at the picnic area near the river.

18. Granted the use of the Chamber building, free of charge, to the following organizations: Girl Scouts, A.A.U.W., Valencia County Fair Association, D.A.V.'s, Beta Sigma Phi, Sheriff's Posse, G.P.A. Extension Clubs, 4-H Clubs, Art Classes and Alcolholic Anonymous.

19. Money has been budgeted for 500 new street maps, a new Economic brochure and the erection of 15 new street signs but these projects have not been completed.

# B E L E N  C H A M B E R  O F  C O M M E R C E

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
July 1, 1955

### ARTICLE I

Section 1 The name of this Organization is "The Belen Chamber of Commerce."

Section 2 It has the power to enact rules and regulations for the government of this Organization.

### ARTICLE II

Section 1 The management and direction of the affairs of the Organization shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors, consisting of twelve members, except that the outgoing President shall automatically be a member of the Board of Directors for the year after his term of office, and in the event his term as a member on the Board of Directors has expired, then and in that event the Board of Directors shall consist of thirteen members. The President and Vice-President are to be selected from within the Board at the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held within the first week after the general meeting. The President shall be the chairman of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 The officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary a Treasurer, and such officers as shall be necessary to conduct the business of the Organization.

Section 3 The President shall preside at all meetings, sign all vouchers and drafts made on the Treasurer and perform the duties usually incident to the office of President.

Section 4 The Vice-President shall in case of the absence or inability of the President, perform the duties of the President. In the case of absence of both President and Vice-President, a Chairman pro-tem may be chosen at any regular meeting of the Organization.

Section 5 It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of the Organization and keep in his possession all the records, contracts, etc.; to conduct the correspondence, collect the dues and other moneys for the Organization, turn the same over to the Treasurer, taking a receipt therefore, issue and sign all vouchers and perform such other duties usually encumbrant upon him.

Section 6 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and safely keep all money belonging to the Organization in a local bank, in the name of the Organization, and disburse the same only on drafts or vouchers drawn upon him by the Secretary and signed by the President.

### ARTICLE IV

Section 1 The President may appoint such Committees as is necessary to properly conduct the business of the Organization.

ARTICLE IV

Section 2 Annually, on the first day of May the President shall appoint a committee of three to act as a nominating committee. It shall be the duty of the committee to nominate a minimum of eight members of the Chamber for election to the Board of Directors. The names of the nominees so selected shall be reported to the Board of Directors not later than May 15th each year. Any member of the Belen Chamber of Commerce shall have the right to nominate another member or members of said Chamber of Commerce for election to the Board of Directors. The nominations so made by members of the Belen Chamber of Commerce shall be filed with the Secretary of the Chamber not later than May 15th of each year. The Secretary shall notify the entire membership of the Chamber of the names of the nominees not later than the following June 1st; providing that nominations may be made from the floor at the time of election of members to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 The Board of Directors of the Belen Chamber of Commerce shall meet once a week. A general meeting for the entire membership is to be arranged for not less than four meetings during the year. Dates of such meetings to be left open with the entire membership being duly notified when such meetings are called. Special meetings to be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1 Election: The Annual election of members of the Board of Directors and a Treasurer shall be at the regular meeting night in June each year. Officers shall take office on July 1st.

Section 2 The term of office to be three years and four members to be elected each year. In the event of vacancy in the Board of Directors, by removal or death, the Board of Directors is given the authority to fill any vacancy by appointment. No member to serve concurrent or successive terms of office.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1 Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment to be made by the Board of Directors and approved by majority vote of those present at the next regular meeting following such appointment.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1 Dues: The dues shall be $25.00 plus $5.00 per each regular employee for each business or professional membership that is licensed by the State of New Mexico, or the County of Valencia or the Town of Belen. These dues will be paid in advance either annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly. The annual dues for the individual shall be $12.50 which shall be paid in advance annually, semi-annually or quarterly.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1 The Constitution and By-laws may be amended by giving notice in writing presented at a regular meeting and then shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting.

Tickets sold at $7.50 per couple

GREATER BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1971 WHAT'S NEW FOR TOMORROW

JANUARY 4, 1972 — HORIZON COUNTRY CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| MASTER OF CEREMONIES | FRANK P. SEMINARA, PRESIDENT, GBCC |
| INVOCATION | REV. J. D. HATCH, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH |
| PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | GILLIE JARAMILLO, CHAIRMAN, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS |
| DINNER | Prime Rib $3.50 per person w/ free cocktail hour hosted by Horizon Country Club |
| PRESENTATIONS | FRANK P. SEMINARA, PRESIDENT, GBCC — Distinguished Service awards to the directors + officers (except 5 new directors) |
| INTRODUCTION | TIBO J. CHAVEZ, STATE SENATOR |
| ADDRESS | GOV. BRUCE KING (Gift Painting by Martha Atkinson, Past C/C Secy. |
| REMARKS | FRANK P. SEMINARA |
| REMARKS | EARL CARR, PRESIDENT-ELECT, GBCC — Pres plaque & 7 Lunk + Number bar to Secy. from the Pres. Semin |
| BENEDICTION | REV. J. D. HATCH |

Guests from Alb Corp. - Past Pres. Mayton Love, Big 7 Pres.
and Bot Pool.

Gov King & Staff Police Officer Hankle Road.

Horizon Corp. Ted Steele, V.P Corp. and Sig Hansen (both from
Denver Cityno)

Public Officials

Senator Chavez
Ted Hordin District Attorney
Marty Pearl Asst " "
Tom Morris alb. Bradley - Candidate for U.S Senator
Mayor Alexander
Richard Angon City Mgr.
Bill Jaramillo County Commission
Dick Cambiyal State Senator
Lois Zapata Pres School Bd.
Frank Jaramillo & Mrs. Producer of "Mustang" Company Dr. from ZA.
Joe C. Lands " " " " " "
Tom Bullock " " " " " "

*A Letter from the Editor*

# Belen—and a Few Thoughts on What Makes a Town Tick

Reprinted from the Albuquerque, New Mexico Tribune.

**DEAR TRIBUNE READERS:**

If you want to know what sort of a place a town is — go to its annual Chamber of Commerce dinner.

Last Tuesday night, I went to Belen for that Chamber's annual dinner. I am not flattering Belen when I say it was one of the best I have ever attended. There was an overflow crowd — and you could just feel in the air the pride and confidence those present had in Belen and its future.

Carmack

The drive back home was a quiet one. It was a cold night — clear and frosty. The stars filled the sky. There was little traffic. On the way back I did a lot of thinking — not just about Belen but about people in any town who do its civic jobs.

Certain characteristics mark these people.

First there is a genuine love for the place where they live. It would be impossible for a person to work for a town's betterment if he were dissatisfied with it and marking the calendar until he could leave.

And how many years a man has been in a place is not the yardstick that measures his enthusiasm for it. That was illustrated in Belen.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**DRUGGIST FIDEL TABET, THE** new President of the Belen Chamber, obviously has deep affection for Belen. This stood out in his inaugural talk. Fidel was born in Belen and his father had lived there long before that.

But he was no more sentimental about the town and no more enthusiastic about its future than the retiring President, Lyndel Ritchie. Lyndel, who heads Belen's telephone system, was born and reared in Missouri.

I sat next to automobile man Frank Seminara, the First Vice President. Talk about a man who is in love with a town — and tells one and all about that love — that man is Frank. Frank is a Chicago boy who has been in Belen only six years.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**ANOTHER THING THAT MARKS** the people who do the civic jobs in Belen or any other community is unselfishness.

Cynics may say that many civic workers are active for what they can get out of it — that they hope to "make contacts" — to build up a reputation that will bring people to their stores or offices.

Nothing could be further from the truth usually.

As a matter of cold practicality, most people do civic jobs at a financial sacrifice — they could make more money by keeping their noses right on the grindstone of their business.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**BUT THESE PEOPLE ARE WISE** enough to recognize one fundamental principle.

This is that a growing community is one of the best guarantees that an individual has for prosperity and growth in his own business or profession.

Few people succeed in building a successful business or professional practice in a community that is static or dying.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**IN BELEN — AND IN MOST** communities — Chambers of Commerce and other civic organizations are just a little younger on the average than the entire business or professional population.

These are the people that build a community—the people "on the come" — those who still have their future to make.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**THESE PEOPLE ARE REALISTS** — they realize that a community must constantly "replace itself."

Businesses, industries, types of farming and other endeavors constantly are born, flourish — and, in time, pass on.

Albuquerque loses an ACF Industries. There must be a General Electric, a Levi Strauss, a Friden and a Lenkurt stepping in to take its place.

Belen recognizes this. President Tabet emphasized that the No. 1 goal of the Belen Chamber in 1970 was to bring a new industry there.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**LOOKING AT IT ANALYTICALLY,** Belen has every reason to be optimistic.

If you were to pick out a general class of towns that will grow in the immediate future, these towns would have two assets.

The first of these would be location on a superhighway.

The second would be nearness to a sizeable center of population.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE** importance of Belen being on Interstate 25.

In the first place it's an important asset for the attraction of industry. Jim Garvin and Dick Porn of the Industrial Foundation and AIDS will tell you that's the first site requirement for a sizeable new industry.

But much of New Mexico's future lies in tourism. And the superhighways will soon carry an astonishing percentage of the intercity travel in the United States.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**FOR THE ATTRACTION OF** industry, the benefit Belen has in being close to Albuquerque is obvious.

The size of the Albuquerque market — the auxiliary goods and services that Albuquerque can furnish — the recreational and cultural advantages of a city so close at hand — are among them.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**THIS IS ALSO IMPORTANT** in the tourism picture.

A city a few miles outside a large city is a very good spot for motels. People arriving late in the day had rather stop on the outskirts and tackle city traffic the next day. Or others will want to get through the city the afternoon before so they can pile on a lot of miles early the next morning.

The motels in suburban cities should be able to have a small fundamental price advantage — taxes, labor cost, etc.

I imagine we would all be surprised if we knew how many new hotels Belen and Los Lunas would have five years from now.

George Carmack

## ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

**WOMAN PRESIDENT** — Mrs. Almena Greene, the first woman president of the *Kennebunk-Kennebunkport (Maine) Chamber of Commerce,* receives congratulations from Henry Twombley, the Chamber's executive secretary. At present, Mrs. Greene is the only woman Chamber president in Maine. Across the country, about 200 women serve as presidents of local Chambers.

**NEW GLENDALE QUARTERS** — Here is the new office of the *Glendale (Arizona) Chamber of Commerce.* A large meeting hall, which seats 200 at tables or 275 theatre-style, has been leased to the City of Glendale. The hall has a 12 x 30 foot stage with controlled lighting and a built-in sound system. A large kitchen is adjacent to the hall. The building has 5,200 square feet and is situated on a 140 x 200 foot lot. The landscaping is basically desert type with some fruit trees while the parking area will accommodate 48 cars. Cost of the total project was $175,000 with the building costing $110,000.

# B E L E N  C H A M B E R  O F  C O M M E R C E

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
February 23, 1965

### ARTICLE 1

Section 1 The name of this organization is "The Belen Chamber of Commerce"

Section 2 It has the power to enact rules and regulations for the government of this organization.

### ARTICLE 11

Section 1 The management and direction of the affairs of the organization shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors, consisting of fifteen members except that the outgoing President shall automatically be a member of the Board of Directors for the year after his term of office and in the event his term as a member on the Board of Directors has expired, then and in that event, the Board of Directors shall consist of sixteen members. The President and Vice-President are to be selected from within the Board at the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held within the first week after the general meeting. The President shall be the chairman of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 The officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such officers as shall be necessary to conduct the business of the organization.

Section 3 The President shall preside at all meetings, sign all vouchers and drafts made on the Treasurer and perform the duties usually incident to the office of President.

Section 4 The Vice-President shall in case of the absence or inability of the President, perform the duties of the President. In the case of absence of both President and Vice-President, a Chairman pro-tem may be chosen at any regular meeting of the organization.

Section 5 It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of the organization and keep in his possession all the records, contracts, etc.; to conduct the correspondence, collect the dues and other moneys for the organization, turn the same over to the Treasurer, taking a receipt therefore, issue and sign all vouchers and perform such other duties usually encumbrant upon him.

Section 6 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and safely keep all money belonging to the organization in a local bank, in the name of the organization, and disburse the same only on drafts or vouchers drawn upon him by the Secretary and signed by the President.

### ARTICLE 1V

Section 1 The President may appoint such Committees as is necessary to properly conduct the business of the organization.

It has been found necessary to make rules and regulations for the government of this organization.

B E L E N  C H A M B E R  O F  C O M M E R C E

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
February 23, 1965

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ARTICLE IV

Section 1 The President may appoint such Committees as is necessary to properly conduct the business of the organization.

# B E L E N  C H A M B E R  OF  C O M M E R C E

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ARTICLE IV

Section 2 Annually, on the first day of May, the President shall appoint a committee composedof the retiring Board members plus an equal number of regular members to act as a nominating committee. It shall be the duty of the committee to nominate a minimum of five members for the election to the Board of Directors. The names of the nominees so selected shall be reported to the Board of Directors not later than May 15th each year. Any member of the Belen Chamber of Commerce shall have the right to nominate another member or members of said Chamber of Commerce for election to the Board of Directors. The nominations so made by members of the Belen Chamber of Commerce shall be filed in writing with the Secretary of the Chamber not later than May 15th of each year. The Secretary shall notify the entire membership of the Chamber of the names of the nominees not later than the following June 1st; providing that nominations may be made from the floor at the time of election of members to the Board of Directors

ARTICLE V

Section 1 The Board of Directors of the Belen Chamber of Commerce shall meet once a week. A general meeting for the entire membership is to be arranged for not less than four meetings during the year. Dates of such meetings to be left open with the entire membership being duly notified when such meetings are called. Special meetings to be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1 ELECTION: The annual election of members of the Board of Directors and a Treasurer shall be at the general meeting in June each year. Officers shall take office on July 1st.

Section 2 The term of office to be three years and five members to be elected each year. In the event of vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors is given the authority to fill any vacancy by appointment. No member to serve concurrent or successive terms of office.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1 Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment to be made by the Board of Directors and approved by majority vote of those present at the next regular meeting following such appointment.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1 DUES: The dues shall be $25.00 plus $5.00 for each regular employee for each business or progessional membership that is licensed by the State of New Mexico, or the County of Valencia or the Town of Belen. These dues will be paid in advance either annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly. The annual dues for the individual shall be $12.50 which shall be paid in advance annually, semi-annually or quarterly.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1 The Constitution and By-laws may be amended by giving notice in writing presented at a general meeting and then shall be voted upon at the next general meeting. The membership shall be notified in writing one week in advance of the purpose and date of the general meeting.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1964-1965

The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the better ment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry a leader in thinking and a source of service. It's sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.

The Chamber has actively sought new developments and industry for Belen. It furnishes detailed information to firms interested in the west as a new location. Many inquiries are forwarded to us by the Economic Development Department. Working actively with AIDS in Albuquerque in furnishing information to industries who want to locate in small towns close to cities.

Met with the State Highway Commis sion to discuss highway needs in this area. Urged the completion of the widening of South Main Street, the widening of State 47 north and the paving of the six miles south of the Belen bridge on State 47. Reaffirmed the Chambers stand on Interstate bypassing Belen on the west and urged the consideration of three interchanges for Belen instead of two.

Extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups by furnishing name tags and coffee and donuts during registrations periods.

Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the Fair Parade-- gave prizes for the best floats and mounted groups--furnished lunch for all visiting band students and boys from Boy's Ranch on the day of the parade. Co-operated with the Sheriff's Posse in buying Fair advertising banners.

Assisted with the Open House at the High School and sponsored an appreciation banquet for the Belen Eagles.

Assisted the New Mexico Jr. Rodeo Association by helping to solicit trophies and extra prizes for the rodeo.

Acted as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and photographers so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that a check will be made on their credentials with the Better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license will be issued. This co-operation between the city and the Chamber has p roven very successful.

Sponsored Children's Christmas parties in all elementary schools, both Consolidated and St. Mary's.

Sponsored Christmas Street lighting program and the decorating of the City Park during the Christmas season. Co-sponsored the Christmas Home Decorating Contest.

Answered thousands of inquiries about Belen and the Rio Grande Estates. The Horizon Land Corporation pays Mrs Emond to assist with this work.

Assisted many new families in finding housing in Belen.

Attended the Governor's Conferences on Tourism and Industry.

Kept a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking such information.

Revised by-laws in order to increase membership on the Board of Directors and thereby secure a broader representation of business firms on the Board.

Co-operatedd with the Soil Conservation Service in stressing the need of a flood control program for the area west of Belen and Los Lunas. Protested cut in appropriations for the Soil Conservation Service by the federal government.

Hosted the Grants Chamber of Commerce when they made a "Goodwill Tour" through this area.

Worked actively in trying to secure a location and assistance in establishing an airport in the Belen area.

Sponsored the Transient Relief Program whereby all needy transients will be assisted either with food or gasoline after being cleared by the police department.

Made a study on the workability of United Fund Drives in small towns.

Established an Industrial Fund by transferring $320 from the General Fund and $416 from a former building fund. This money will be used under the supervision of the Board of Directors in attracting industry to the area.

Co-operated with the N. M. State University in making a survey to determine the vocational training needs in the area.

Worked with the State Parks and Recreational Department in trying to secure rest areas along major highways in this area.

Met with representative of the N. M. Retail Association to discuss laws governing shoplifting and bad checks. Passed resolutions which were sent to our legislative representatives.

Invited candidates for County offices from both parties to be guests of the Chamber at lunch so that they could become acquainted with the work of the Belen Chamber of Commerce.

Protested the removal of two scheduled Continental buses between El Paso and Albuquerque because of the lack of adequate bus express service. Both buses were put back into service.

Co-operated in keeping the County Health Nurses office in Belen since 80 percent of the patient load is in the Belen area. The lack of office space in this area was the prime reason for its suggested removal to Los Lunas. Office space was secured with financial assistance from the State Health Office.

Secured seventeen new memberships in the Chamber during the year.

Brief History of
Belen, New Mexico

Belen was founded in 1741 by two Spaniards who petitioned for and received a large grant of land known as Nuestra Senora de Belen (Our Lady of Belen). Belen is the Spanish word for Bethlehem

The site of Belen being an important strategic point, the Spanish authorities established a fort here in 1780. This fort was manned by a citizens' army and served to protect the people from the Indians, particularly from a large settlement of Apaches which covered the area of Sabinal just south of Belen as late as the close of the 18th century.

Belen experienced its last Indian raid in 1864 when the Navajos swept down on the town, stealing and driving off cows, goats and sheep and taking some captives. The captives were later exchanged for Indians whom had been captured by the Spaniards living at Belen.

The Catholic Church had missions all over this country very early and there are ruins of a church known as the "Pueblo de Altos Ruins" just six miles south of Belen, which are fairly authentically dated as having been an Indian Mission in 1608.

The first Anglo people began settling in Belen in early 1870's. They were mostly of German descent and were forefathers of many of the present business men in Belen. They established the first Protestant Church.

In 1880, when the great Santa Fe Railroad system opened a new rail road through the town, prosperity started on its march. Seventeen years later, the Santa Fe opened the cut-off or east-west line, making Belen its "Hub City" and also one of the greatest railroad centers in New Mexico.

Belen is also the "Hub City" because of its central location in the state. On its modern highways, one can venture out to discover towering mountains, primeval forests and rugged deserts with their reminders of the glorious past.

Belen is in the heart of the middle Rio Grande Valley which encompasses nearly 125,000 irrigable acres- a third of this acreage is within a 10 mile radius of the Hub City. Dairying is the fastest growing industry.

The altitude is 4,800 feet. The climate ideal for health seekers and vacationers. Sportsmen gather for hunting in the Manzano Range of the Rocky Mountains and for fishing in the irrigation ditches which are stocked by the State Game Department.

The population of Belen in 1890 was 685 -- today it is about 8,500. It serves a trade territory of 20,000 people. Its economic stability is based on a diversification of industrial, agricultural and business enterprises.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DURING THE YEAR 1953-54

Almost any project of any consequence in Belen has had its inception in the Chamber of Commerce -- usually around the weekly luncheon meeting of your Board of Directors. These men are your elected representatives for a better Belen and will always welcome your attendance at these luncheons and your help. They are on the job constantly pulling for Belen. They give their time and money -- many times because others have failed to do so. If you don't have the time, there is more reason for you to help with your money. You wouldn't be in business in Belen if the people that came here before you had not co-operated to make it the town that it is.

Give us your suggestions as to what the Chamber can do to assist you in your business and to make Belen a better place in which to live.

1. Your Chamber of Commerce purchased 33 street signs in cooperation with the City -- sharing the cost of $500.00 equally.

2. Purchased Albuquerque's Christmas lights and sponsored the largest and most beautiful Christmas lighting contest that Belen has ever had. Many out of town people were attracted to Belen to see this display. The Belen C. of C. also helped in securing the television production of it.

3. Contacted the Santa Fe Railroad officials about the unnecessary delay of traffic at Reinken Avenue crossing and received their promise of cooperation in eliminating as much of this delay as possible.

4. Sponsored the parade for the Valencia County Fair and donated prizes for the best floats. Assisted the Fair Association by furnishing men to take care of the entrance gates.

5. Obtained a three year lease at $1.00 per year on the Administration Building of the Santa Fe Courts for office space for the Chamber of Commerce and a recreational center for youth.

6. Granted the Belen Girl Scouts use of the building, free of charge, as a permanent home for their meetings and parties.

7. Granted the use of the building, free of charge, for regular meetings to the Girl Scout Council, Boy Scout Council, A. A. U. W. Valencia County Fair Association, D. A. V's, and the Civil Air Patrol. It is available to any other civic organization. Private parties are charged $5.00 for the use of the building.

8. The Chamber of Commerce secured housing for all the El Paso Natural Gas construction workers when the pipe line was laid through this area.

9. Sponsored a Hallowe'en party for the youth of Belen with a wiener roast and prizes for the best costumes. This annual event has practically eliminated destruction of property and vandalism in Belen.

10. C. of C. has taken an active part in assisting the Middle Rio Grande Flood Control Association in assembling statistics and information to be used in their fight to secure additional water for the Middle Rio Grande Valley from the San Juan Basin.

11. Met with the State Highway Commission twice to discuss road and traffic conditions near and in Belen. As a result we have been promised that the overpass north of Belen on 85 will be replaced or widened this year and possibly 85 will be made a 4 lane road between Belen and Los Lunas.

12. Sponsored a brief reception for Queen Frederika and King Paul of Greece which was attended by hundreds of people from Albuquerque and Gallup.

13. Purchased dishes and cooking utensils for C. of C. building to be used by all organizations that meet there. Silver service for 48 was donated by the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce.

14. Sponsored Community Christmas party for 1,600 children.

15. Met with other Chamber representatives in Albuquerque for the purpose of discussing the possibility of assisting the State Corporation Commission in controlling freight rates in the New Mexico.

16. Have answered 118 inquiries by mail from people wanting information about Belen.

17. Took steps to protect its members against loss of time and money in a campaign against solicitors of donations, subscriptions and advertisements.

18. Have kept a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking information of such nature.

19. Are now starting a project to improve recreatinnal and picnic grounds.

Officers for the year 1953-54 were:
Salo Garcia, President; Dr. C. C. McDougal, Vice-President; Martha Atkinson, Secretary; Directors: Austin Lovett, Luis Torres, Benny Sanchez, Henry Salazar Herbert Ellermeyer, Kenneth Stewart and Joe Cassano.

BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1956-57

WITHOUT THE ORGANIZED HELP OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS COULD YOU HAVE DONE BY YOURSELF?

1. The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the betterment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry, a leader in thinking and source of service. Its sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.
2. Your Chamber is now actively seeking new developments and industry for Belen. It furnishes detailed information to firms interested in the west as a new location. About three inquiries a week are forwarded to us by the Economic Development Commission.

3. Surveys have been made of the industrial possibilities in our area for the Economic Development Commission.

4. Your Chamber has met in Santa Fe with the State Highway Commission to discuss the highway improvement needs in this area.

5. It has worked in co-operation with the State Tourist Bureau by placing a Welcome Tourist brochure, which contains a full page of information on Belen, in all motels, hotels, cafes and service stations.

6. Your Chamber has set up a Welcome program for new comers to Belen with thirty merchants participating with gift certificates.

7. It has extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen. Coffee and donuts are served to all guests attending these conventions.

8. It has worked in co-operation with City officials in making surveys and planning improvements for our community.

9. It has worked in co-operation with our schools. It sponsored a banquet honoring our football team and coaches. It purchased a trophy for the Basketball Tournament. Helped to sponsor a Christmas Music program with the Music Departments.



10. Continued to act as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and photographers so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that a check would be made on their credentials with the Better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license would be issued. This co-operation between the City and the Chamber has proved very successful.

11. Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the Fair Parade-- gave prizes for the best floats--fed all visiting band members following the parade-- gave trophy to the band contributing the best performance in the parade.

12. Sponsored the Hallowe'en and Christmas parties for the children in the Belen area.

13. Sponsored the Christmas street lighting program and the Christmas promotion program.

14. Answered daily mail inquiries from people wanting information about Belen.

15. Kept a file of national publications for the use of any one seeking information.

16. Assisted many new families in finding housing in Belen.

17. Worked with the County Recreation Committee in building fireplaces at the picnic area near the river.

18. Granted the use of the Chamber building, free of charge, to the following organizations: Girl Scouts, A.A.U.W., Valencia County Fair Association, D.A.V.'s, Beta Sigma Phi, Sheriff's Posse, G.P.A. Extension Clubs, 4-H Clubs, Art Classes and Alcoholic Anonymous.

19. Money has been budgeted for 500 new street maps, a new Economic brochure and the erection of 15 new street signs but these projects have not been completed.

BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1957-58

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2. Your Chamber is now actively seeking new developments and industry for Belen. It furnishes detailed information to firms interested in the west as a new location. Many inquiries are forwarded to us by the Economic Development Commission.

3. Surveys have been made of the industrial possibilities in our area for the Economic Development Commission.

4. Your Chamber has met with the State Highway officials to discuss the highway needs in this area.

5. It works constantly with the New Mexico State Tourist Bureau.

6. Your Chamber handles the Welcome program for new comers to Belen in which about thirty merchants are participating with gift certificates.

7. It has extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen Coffee and donuts have been served to guests of these conventions and trophoys have been furnished by the Chamber to contesting groups at these meetings.

8. It has worked in co-operation with City officials in making surveys and planning improvements for our community.

9. It has worked in co-operation with our schools.

10. It has continued to act as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and photographers so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that a check would be made on their credentials with the Better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license would be issued. This co-operation between the City and the Chamber has proved very successful.

11. Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the Fair parade-- gave prizes for the best floats- fed all visiting band members gave a trophy to the band contributing the best performance in the parade. Handled the entrance gates to the Fair grounds.

12. Sponsored the Hallow'en and Christmas parties for the children in the Belen area.

13. Sponsored the Christmas street lighting program.

14. Answered daily mail inquiries from people wanting information about Belen.

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16. Assisted many new families in finding housing in Belen.

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19. Has sent resolutions and letters to Congressional members on matters affecting our state and area.

20. Your Chamber has been making a study of the possibilities of uniting fund drives in Belen.

21. It has asked our congressional representatives to request a study on the need of additional space for post office and federal offices. The Post Office Department and General Services Administration are now making these studies.

22. Met with Judge Swope to discuss juvenile problems in Belen.

BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1957-58

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BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1958-1959

1. The Belen Chamber of Commerce has worked on a comprehensive program for the betterment of our community. It has tried to be a force for unity, a builder of industry, a leader in thinking and a source of service. Its sole function has been to get things done for the community at large and not for any individual or firm.

2. Your Chamber is now actively seeking new developments and industry for Belen. The New Industry Committee is now working on an economic survey that will be put in brochure form in order that detailed information may be given to firms interested in new locations in the west.

3. Your Chamber has met several times with representatives of the Economic Development Commission, New Mexico State University, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Dept. of Commerce to discuss the industrial and agricultural potential of this area. The result of meetings has been a decided interest in the possibility of a chili processing plant in Belen. Surveys are being made by the County Agent and the Director of the Rural Development Committee to determine the amount of acreage that would be planted in chili if a suitable market can be obtained. Marketing experts from N. M. State University will help to contact firms interested in establishing a processing plant when the crop survey is completed.

4. Representatives of the Chamber attended an Industrial Conference in Gallup as guests of the Navajo Tribe and the Santa Fe Railroad. The purpose of this meeting was to acquaint each community with the industrial programs of other communities and agencies.

5. The Chamber Highway Committee has met with State Highway officials to discuss the highway needs in this area.

6. The Chamber works constantly with the New Mexico State Tourist Bureau.

7. It has extended welcome and courtesies to convention groups meeting in Belen. Coffee and donuts have been served to guests of these conventions.

8. It has worked in co-operation with our schools. The Distributive Education Class has used the large room in the Chamber building as a class room and has used the kitchen in preparing breakfasts for D.E. students and business men. The Distributive Education class has carried a membership in the Chamber with two students attending each luncheon meeting.

9. The Chamber has continued to act as a clearing house for information regarding solicitations, peddlers and photographers so as to protect the local citizens and business firms against loss of time and money. Many have changed their minds about working in Belen when notified that a check would be made on their credentials with the Better Business Bureau in Albuquerque before a city license would be issued. This co-operation between the City and the Chamber has proved very successful.

10. Co-operated with the Valencia County Fair Board in promoting the Fair. Sponsored the Fair parade--gave prizes for the best floats-- furnished refreshments to all

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CHAMBER of Commerce - 1976